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The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method of removing a residual gas from inside a conventional shipping container after a period of time in
5 which goods were located in the container, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing the container via an end door opening of the container;
- extracting at least some of the residual gas
10 present in the container via the end door opening; and
- providing a flow of a flushing gas into the container via the end door opening to flush residual gas from the container.

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of extracting the residual gas reduces gas pressure in the container below ambient atmospheric pressure outside the container.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein when the pressure of gas in the container reaches a pre-determined value, the flow of flushing gas is initiated and the gas pressure in the container increases.

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4. A method of removing a residual gas from inside a conventional shipping container after a period of time in which goods were located in the container, the method comprising the steps of:

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- accessing the container via an end door opening of the container; and
- delivering a flow of a flushing gas into the container via the end door opening to flush the residual gas from the container, with a flow of the flushing gas and the residual gas being removed from the container via the end door opening.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flow and/or total pressure of gases within the container is monitored and controlled.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the
10 step of absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorption/adsorption means.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein substantially all
15 of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorption/adsorption means.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising the
step of one of washing the absorption/adsorption means,
20 decomposing the residual gas on the absorption/adsorption means and discarding the absorption/adsorption means.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of accessing the container involves:

25 - opening an end door of the container; and
 - operatively coupling a panel to the container at the end door opening, and operatively coupling a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means to the panel so that the container is sealed during the
30 removal of the flushing gas and the residual gas from the container.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the flushing gas is introduced via the gas inlet means.

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12. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein gas is

extracted via the gas extraction means.

13. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the gas extraction means is operatively coupled at a lower region 5 of the panel relative to the location of the gas inlet means.

14. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the panel itself comprises a plurality of panels.

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15. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.

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16. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the container is provided with means for monitoring and controlling the pressure of gas in the container.

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17. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of monitoring the concentration of residual gas in the container.

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18. A method of removing a residual gas that is present in an enclosure after a period of time in which goods were located in the enclosure, the method comprising the steps of:

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- accessing the enclosure via an opening to the enclosure;
- operatively coupling a panel, a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means to the opening, whereby the panel sealingly attaches at the opening and the gas inlet means and the gas extraction means are operatively coupled to the panel;
- extracting a flow of the residual gas via the gas extraction means until at least some of the residual gas present is removed; and

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- providing a flow of a flushing gas into the enclosure via the gas inlet means to flush the residual gas from the enclosure.
- 5 19. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of extracting the residual gas reduces gas pressure in the enclosure below ambient atmospheric pressure outside the enclosure.
- 10 20. A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein when the pressure of residual gas in the enclosure reaches a pre-determined value, the flow of flushing gas is initiated and the gas pressure in the enclosure increases.
- 15 21. A method of removing a residual gas that is present in an enclosure after a period of time in which goods were located in the enclosure, the method comprising the steps of:
- accessing the enclosure via an opening to the enclosure;
 - operatively coupling a panel having a gas inlet and a gas outlet to the opening, whereby the panel sealingly attaches at the opening;
 - delivering a flow of a flushing gas into the enclosure via the gas inlet to flush the residual gas from the enclosure, with a flow of the flushing gas and residual gas being removed from the enclosure via the gas outlet.
- 20 22. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the enclosure is defined by a conventional shipping container.
- 25 23. Cancelled
- 30 24. Residual gas removal apparatus arranged to be

operatively coupled to an enclosure for removing residual gas from inside the enclosure, the apparatus comprising:

- a panel arranged for operative coupling to the enclosure in a sealing manner;
- 5 - gas inlet means for operative coupling to the panel for introducing a flushing gas into the enclosure;
- gas extraction means for operative coupling to the panel for extracting gas from the enclosure;
- pressure monitoring means for monitoring the total 10 pressure of gases within the enclosure; and
- controlling means for controlling the flow of gases through at least one of the gas inlet and gas extraction means in response to the monitored pressure within the enclosure.

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25. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 further comprising absorption/adsorption means for absorbing/adsorbing residual gas extracted from the container.

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26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25 wherein the absorption/adsorption means comprises an absorption/adsorption bed including activated carbon to which at least part of the extracted residual gas attaches at its surface and in its pores.

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27. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein the residual gas removal apparatus also comprises a panel arranged in use to be coupled to the enclosure in a sealing manner, the gas inlet means and the gas extraction means operatively 30 coupled or mounted to the panel.

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28. Apparatus arranged to be operatively coupled to an enclosure for removing residual gas from inside the enclosure, the apparatus comprising:

- a framework mountable onto a surface and locatable

- adjacent to the enclosure in use; and
- a member mounted to the framework and comprising gas inlet means for introducing a flushing gas into the enclosure, gas extraction means for extracting gas from the enclosure and coupling means for coupling the member to the enclosure;
- 5 wherein the member is moveable between an in use coupled position in which the coupling means couples the member to the enclosure and a de-coupled position in which the member
- 10 is spaced from the enclosure.
29. Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 wherein the member is pivotally mounted to the framework.
- 15 30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 or claim 29 wherein the member further comprises a panel for coupling to an opening in the enclosure.
31. Cancelled
- 20 32. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the flow and/or total pressure of gases within the container is monitored and controlled.
- 25 33. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.
34. A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the step of absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual
- 30 gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorption/adsorption means.
35. A method as claimed in claim 34 wherein substantially all of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorption/adsorption means.

36. A method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising the step of one of washing the absorption/adsorption means, decomposing the residual gas on the absorption/adsorption means and discarding the absorption/adsorption means.

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37. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the step of accessing the container involves:

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- opening an end door of the container; and
- operatively coupling a panel to the container at the end door opening, and operatively coupling a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means to the panel so that the container is sealed during the removal of the flushing gas and the residual gas from the container.

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38. A method as claimed in claim 37 wherein the flushing gas is introduced via the gas inlet means.

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39. A method as claimed in claim 37 wherein gas is extracted via the gas extraction means.

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40. A method as claimed in claim 37 wherein the gas extraction means is operatively coupled at a lower region of the panel relative to the location of the gas inlet means.

41. A method as claimed in claim 37 wherein the panel itself comprises a plurality of panels.

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42. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.

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43. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the container is provided with means for monitoring and controlling the pressure of gas in the container.

44. A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the step of monitoring the concentration of residual gas in the container.
- 5 45. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the flow and/or total pressure of gases within the container is monitored and controlled.
- 10 46. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.
- 15 47. A method as claimed in claim 18 further comprising the step of absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorption/adsorption means.
- 20 48. A method as claimed in claim 47 wherein substantially all of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorption/adsorption means.
- 25 49. A method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising the step of one of washing the absorption/adsorption means, decomposing the residual gas on the absorption/adsorption means and discarding the absorption/adsorption means.
- 30 50. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of accessing the container involves:
- opening an end door of the container; and
 - operatively coupling a panel to the container at the end door opening, and operatively coupling a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means to the panel so that the container is sealed during the removal of the flushing gas and the residual gas from the container.
- 35 51. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the flushing

gas is introduced via the gas inlet means.

52. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein gas is extracted via the gas extraction means.

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53. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the gas extraction means is operatively coupled at a lower region of the panel relative to the location of the gas inlet means.

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54. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the panel itself comprises a plurality of panels.

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55. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.

56. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the container is provided with means for monitoring and controlling the pressure of gas in the container.

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57. A method as claimed in claim 18 further comprising the step of monitoring the concentration of residual gas in the container.

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58. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the flow and/or total pressure of gases within the container is monitored and controlled.

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59. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.

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60. A method as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the step of absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorption/adsorption means.

61. A method as claimed in claim 60 wherein substantially all of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorption/adsorption means.
- 5 62. A method as claimed in claim 60 further comprising the step of one of washing the absorption/adsorption means, decomposing the residual gas on the absorption/adsorption means and discarding the absorption/adsorption means.
- 10 63. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the step of accessing the container involves:
- opening an end door of the container; and
 - operatively coupling a panel to the container at the end door opening, and operatively coupling a
- 15 gas inlet means and a gas extraction means to the panel so that the container is sealed during the removal of the flushing gas and the residual gas from the container.
- 20 64. A method as claimed in claim 63 wherein the flushing gas is introduced via the gas inlet means.
65. A method as claimed in claim 63 wherein gas is extracted via the gas extraction means.
- 25 66. A method as claimed in claim 63 wherein the gas extraction means is operatively coupled at a lower region of the panel relative to the location of the gas inlet means.
- 30 67. A method as claimed in claim 63 wherein the panel itself comprises a plurality of panels.
- 35 68. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.

69. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the container is provided with means for monitoring and controlling the pressure of gas in the container.
- 5 70. A method as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the step of monitoring the concentration of residual gas in the container.
- 10 71. Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 further comprising absorption/adsorption means for absorbing/adsorbing residual gas extracted from the container.
- 15 72. Apparatus as claimed in claim 71 wherein the absorption/adsorption means comprises an absorption/adsorption bed including activated carbon to which at least part of the extracted residual gas attaches at its surface and in its pores.
- 20 73. Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 wherein the residual gas removal apparatus also comprises a panel arranged in use to be coupled to the enclosure in a sealing manner, the gas inlet means and the gas extraction means operatively coupled or mounted to the panel.